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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 NIC-01 /059 W
---------- 053113
R 021822Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2958

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10145

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES CHURCH DISSATISFACTION WITH
COURSE OF REVOLUTION

REF: LIMA A-188

1. ON NOVEMBER 20, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF LIMA BAMBAREN ANNOUNCED THAT AN OPEN AIR MASS WOULD BE CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 7 IN FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL IN ORDER TO MARK THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO. ACCORDING TO A CHURCH COMMUNIQUE, BAMBAREN CALLED UPON PERUVIANS TO WORK FOR A JUST SOCIETY. HOWEVER, THE NEXT DAY, SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LIMA NEWSPAPERS REPORTED PROMINENTLY THAT BAMBAREN HAD CALLED UPON PERUVIANS TO WORK TOGETHER IN FAVOR OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

2. IN RESPONSE, THE CHURCH ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON THE 21ST, ACCUSING SECTORS OF THE PRESS OF "TWISTING" BAMBAREN'S STATEMENTS THEREBY "CONFUSING PUBLIC OPINION". THE DECEMBER 7 MASS WAS CANCELLED IN PROTEST.

3. RETURNING FROM A VATICAN MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, CARDINAL LANDAZURI REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY AIRPORT REPORTERS, LEST THE PRESS "TWIST" HIS WORDS TOO.

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4. ON NOVEMBER 26, PRESIDENT VELASCO MET WITH CARDINAL

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LANDAZURI. THE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHED AND PUBLICIZED THEIR "CORDIAL MEETING". THE NEXT DAY, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, VELASCO DENIED THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND HIS GOVERNMENT. HE DECLARED THAT THERE WAS SIMPLY A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PRESS AND THE CHURCH, WHICH PROVED THAT THE PRESS WAS FREE.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, BISHOP BAMBAREN, WHO UP TO NOW HAS SUPPORTED STRONGLY THE REVOLUTION, AND AS A RESULT HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICIZED FOR THIS STAND BY CONSERVATIVES, IS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE RADICAL COURSE OF VELASCO'S GOVERNMENT. BAMBAREN REPORTEDLY HAS SENT A LETTER TO VELASCO DENOUNCING COMMUNISTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AND STATING THAT BOTH THE CHURCH AND ARMY ARE THREATENED BY THE ROLE WHICH LEFTISTS ARE PLAYING IN THE REVOLUTION. A WESTERN AMBASSADOR, WHO SPOKE RECENTLY TO BAMBAREN, BELIEVES THAT THE BISHOP HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION HOW LONG THE VELASCO GOVERNMENT CAN LAST.
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TAGS: PINT, PE, (BAMBAREN, LUIS)
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